

1. Incident Name:	2. Operational Period: (Date / Time)	"Safety Message"
Hurricane Harvey – ESF 10 Texas	From: 09-05-17 @ 0700 To: 09-05-17 @ 1900	

Mosquitos & Hurricanes

After a hurricane has passed through an area and flooding occurs, mosquitoes will lay eggs near standing water. Mosquito populations usually increase greatly after flooding. Most of these mosquitoes are considered nuisance mosquitoes and will not spread viruses. However, some types of mosquitoes could spread viruses like Zika, dengue, or West Nile.

Hurricanes and Mosquitoes

- Adult mosquitoes outside do not generally survive high winds during a hurricane.
- Flooding washes away mosquito larvae and immediately causes a temporary decrease in the mosquito population.
- Within days of flooding, mosquito eggs will hatch and adult mosquitoes that survived the storm will lay new eggs. Within a couple of weeks, mosquito populations will greatly increase. Most of these mosquitoes are considered nuisance mosquitoes and will not spread viruses.

Hurricanes and Viruses

- Studies show that hurricanes and floods do not typically cause an increase in viruses spread by mosquitoes, like Zika or West Nile.
- However, because people spend more time outside cleaning up after a hurricane or flood, they are more likely to be bitten by mosquitoes.
- Small increases in the numbers of Protect Yourself and Your Family from Mosquito Bites
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. °See EPA's search tool [here](#).
 - Always follow the product label instructions.
 - Reapply insect repellent as directed.
 - Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
 - If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
 - Prevent mosquito bites

Texas: Hurricane Harvey and Mosquito-borne Viruses

Prior to Hurricane Harvey, no local spread of Zika, dengue, or other viruses spread by *Aedes aegypti* or *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes had been reported in Houston or the areas affected by flooding. Although the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey is severe and an increase in mosquito populations is expected in the coming weeks, CDC does not expect to see cases of Zika appear in the area because of flooding.

West Nile virus is primarily spread by *Culex* mosquitoes. Cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Texas this summer. CDC does anticipate additional cases of West Nile virus to be reported throughout the summer, but not as a result of flooding from Hurricane Harvey.

About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people with this type of West Nile virus disease recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.

<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/mosquitoes-and-hurricanes.html>